

The Hongkong Telegraph.

No. 57.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1882.

FIVE DOLLARS
PER QUARTER.

Insurances.

NOTICE.

THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED.....\$1,000,000.

The above Company is prepared to accept MARINE RISKS at CURRENT RATES on GOODS, &c. Policies granted to all Parts of the world payable at any of its Agencies.

WOO LIN YUEN,
Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE,
No. 2, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST,
Hongkong, 1st February, 1882.

LE CERCLE-TRANSPORTS.
SOCIETE ANONYME D'ASSURANCE
MARITIME MARSEILLE.

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED.....15,000,000 Francs.
CAPITAL PAID-UP.....3,750,000 Francs.

The Undersigned, having been appointed AGENTS of the above Company, are prepared to GRANT POLICIES on MARINE RISKS to all Parts of the World.

ARNHOLD, KARBERG & Co.

Hongkong, 15th June, 1882.

THE CITY OF LONDON FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

CAPITAL, £2,000,000; PAID-UP.....£200,000.
PAID UP RESERVE FUND.....£50,000.

The Undersigned, having been appointed AGENTS for the above Company, are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE at Current Rates.

GEO. R. STEVENS & Co.

Hongkong, 14th March, 1882.

THE SOUTH BRITISH FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND.

CAPITAL, £1,000,000 (One Million Sterling);
UNLIMITED LIABILITY OF SHAREHOLDERS.

The Undersigned, having been appointed AGENTS for the above Company, are prepared to ACCEPT FIRE and MARINE RISKS at Current Rates, allowing usual discounts.

GEO. R. STEVENS & Co.,
Hongkong, 14th March, 1882.

YANGTSZE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

CAPITAL (Fully Paid-up).....Ts. 420,000.00
PERMANENT RESERVE.....Ts. 230,000.00
SPECIAL RESERVE FUND.....Ts. 288,936.7

TOTAL CAPITAL and ACCUMULATIONS, 2nd.....Ts. 938,936.7
April, 1881.

DIRECTORS.
F. B. FORBES, Esq., Chairman.
M. W. BOYD, Esq. | W. M. MEYERSON, Esq.
J. H. PINCKNEY, Esq. | F. D. HITCH, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE—SHANGHAI.
Messrs. RUSSELL & Co., secretaries.

LONDON BRANCH.
Messrs. BARING BROTHERS & Co.,
Bankers.

RICHARD BLACKWELL, Esq., Agent.
68 and 69, Cornhill, E.C.

POLICIES granted on MARINE RISKS to all parts of the World.

Subject to a charge of 12 per cent, for Interest on shareholders' Capital, all the Profits of the UNDERWRITING BUSINESS are annually divided among all Contributors of Business in proportion to the premium paid by them.

RUSSELL & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 23rd January, 1882.

[53]

To be Let.

TO LET.
FROM THE 1ST APRIL, 1882.

THAT LARGE and COMMODIOUS HOUSE, No. 8, ARTHUR ROAD, at present in the occupation of Mr. J. D. HUTCHISON.
Apply to J. A. CARVALHO.

Hongkong, 9th March, 1882.

[147]

TO LET.

A LARGE GRANITE GODOWN, in "BLUE BUILDINGS," Praya East, with immediate possession.
Apply to J. M. GUEDES.

33, WELLINGTON-STREET.

Hongkong, 19th January, 1882.

[49]

TO LET.

OFFICES in No. 13, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, ALSO,
No. 4, SEYMORE TERRACE.
No. 9, SEYMORE TERRACE.

Apply to DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.

Hongkong, 25th March, 1882.

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HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

CONTRIBUTING SHAREHOLDERS are requested to send in a Statement of Business contributed during the Half Year ended December 31st, 1881, on or before March 31st, on which date the Accounts will be CLOSED.

By Order of the Board of Directors.

R. COOKE,
Acting Secretary.

Hongkong, 1st March, 1882.

[130]

For Sale.

H. FOURNIER & CO.

HAVE FOR SALE, JUST RECEIVED, EX FRENCH MAIL, STEAMER.

A SPLENDID ASSORTMENT OF FANCY GOODS.

H. FOURNIER AND COMPANY HAVE JUST RECEIVED.

FANCY PLAYING CARDS.

CRACKERS, BONBONS (Assorted).

CHOCOLATE CREAM.

CHOCOLATE HONEY.

H. FOURNIER & Co.,

Corner of D'Aguilar and Wellington-streets.

H. FOURNIER AND COMPANY HAVE JUST RECEIVED.

FIGS, JALAGA RAISINS.

TABLE PLUMS.

FRUITS IN JUICE (Assorted).

CONFITURES DE ST. JAMES (in Bottles and Tins).

SYRUPS (Assorted).

HUNTER & PALMER'S BISCUITS.

ALMONDS and NUTS.

VANILLA, FATE DE FOIE GRAS.

H. FOURNIER & Co.,

Corner of D'Aguilar and Wellington-streets.

H. FOURNIER AND COMPANY HAVE JUST RECEIVED.

NOIX DE VEAU TRUFFEE (in Tins).

COTELETT DE VEAU (in Tins).

FRUROTI, RIS DE VEAU (in Tins).

FRICANDAU (Assorted).

TRUFFES.

VEGETABLES (Assorted).

ANCHOVIES in Oil.

CAVIA.

SARDINES in Lemon Juice.

SARDINES in Tomatas.

SARDINES in Oil.

H. FOURNIER & Co.,

Corner of D'Aguilar and Wellington-streets.

H. FOURNIER AND COMPANY HAVE JUST RECEIVED.

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SAUSAGES (Assorted).

LYONS SAUSAGES.

FRENCH & SPANISH OLIVES.

FRENCH ISIGNY BUTTER (in 1 and 2 lbs. Tins).

MACCARONI. (Assorted) Paste for Soups, Letters, stars, &c.

TAPIOCA.

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H. FOURNIER AND COMPANY HAVE JUST RECEIVED.

AN ASSORTMENT OF CHEESE.

GRUYERE, ROQUEFORT.

DUTCH, CALIFORNIA, CREAM.

H. FOURNIER & Co.,

Corner of D'Aguilar and Wellington-streets.

H. FOURNIER AND COMPANY HAVE JUST RECEIVED.

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ASSORTED PERFUMERY

FROM PINAUD and PIVERT of PARIS.

A large quantity of FRENCH MINERAL WATERS

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CORK STOPPERS, for Soda and other Bottles.

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In Bottles and Wood.

CHATEAU LAROSE.

CHATEAU LAFITTE.

CHATEAU MARGAUX.

ST. EMILION, MEDOC.

H. FOURNIER & Co.,

Corner of D'Aguilar and Wellington-streets.

H. FOURNIER AND COMPANY HAVE JUST RECEIVED.

AN ASSORTMENT OF WINES.

SAUTERNE, PORTO, SHERRY.

MARSALA.

H. FOURNIER & Co.,

Corner of D'Aguilar and Wellington-streets.

H. FOURNIER AND COMPANY HAVE JUST RECEIVED.

A SHIPMENT OF BRANDY.

FRENCH COGNAC and ABSINTHE.

H. FOURNIER & Co.,

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H. FOURNIER AND COMPANY HAVE JUST RECEIVED.

ANISSETTE (Marie Brigard).

ANGOSTURA BITTERS.

BOKER'S BITTERS.

KIRSCHWASSER, PEPPERMINT.

VERMOUTH (Nolty Prat).

VERMOUTH (Turino).

H. FOURNIER AND COMPANY HAVE JUST RECEIVED.

A LARGE STOCK OF FANCY SILK UMBRELLAS.

H. FOURNIER & Co.,

Corner of D'Aguilar and Wellington-streets.

H. FOURNIER AND COMPANY HAVE JUST RECEIVED.

A VARIETY OF OTHER GOODS.

H. FOURNIER & Co.,

Corner of D'Aguilar and Wellington-streets.

H. FOURNIER AND COMPANY HAVE JUST RECEIVED.

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WHERE INSTRUCTIONS ARE FREE OF CHARGE.

NOTICE.

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH.

Intimations.

N O W R E A D Y

(PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.)

THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND
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A NEW DIRECTORY FOR CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE
PHILIPPINES, FOR THE YEAR 1882.

PRICE TWO DOLLARS.

To prevent disappointment, orders for this Work should be sent immediately to the Office of the "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH," as there are but few Copies left; so great has been the demand and so large were the orders received from importers as soon as the Publication was announced.

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JAPAN.

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OFFICIAL SOURCES.

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CONTAINS
THE CONDITIONS OF TRADE WITH
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RECENTLY ARRIVED ON THIS STATION.

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A LIST OF PRIVATE RESIDENCES
Of the Principal Government Officials, the Leading
Merchants, the Consuls, Professional Men,
and Justices of the Peace.

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THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY
CONTAINS
AN INDEX TO THE ORDINANCES
OF HONGKONG.

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THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY
CONTAINS
AN ANGLO-CHINESE KALENDAR
by Dr. EITEL.

Inserted in the work by permission of the author.
This useful reference is a Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, and Japanese Kaledar.

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HAS BEEN
LARGELY ORDERED IN ALL PORTS
BETWEEN
SINGAPORE AND NEWCHWANG.

Intimations.

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GENERAL CHEMISTS,

AND

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AND POTASH, LEMONADE,

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SHANGHAI.

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CANTON.

THE DISPENSARY,

FOOCHOW.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications on Editorial matters should be addressed to "The Editor," and those on business "The Manager," and not to individuals by name. Correspondents are requested to forward their name and address, and the name of the newspaper addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith. All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only, and rejected communications can not be returned. Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until countermanded.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1882.

The Hon. W. H. MARSH arrived here by the French mail early on Tuesday morning, and was duly installed as Administrator in the afternoon. The *China Mail* is in raptures over the event, and indulges in a dream that a Marsh millennium is to set in with his advent. However much we might be disposed to hope that our friend's hallucinations are likely to be realized, we can hardly allow that the very first

action of the new Administrator warrants any such happy belief. On the contrary, it seems to us that Mr. MARSH has signalled his assumption of office by a grave blunder, for which he will pretty certainly be called to account. We allude, of course, to the supersession of Mr. TONNOCHY and the appointment of Dr. STEWART to the Colonial Secretariate.

This appointment was by no means a surprise to us, as it was stated with some authority a few weeks ago that Mr. MARSH had decided on it before he left Cyprus. We yield to none in respect for Dr. STEWART, but we cannot admit that his claims to the office are superior to those of Mr. TONNOCHY, either as regards capacity or service. We quite understand the obligation Mr. MARSH was under to Dr. STEWART for having taken charge of the post when he went to leave some two years ago, yet we are loth to believe that he could be influenced by considerations of this kind in filling up posts in the public service. It is therefore difficult to imagine what his reasons can have been. Dr. STEWART had voluntarily resigned the appointment of Acting Colonial Secretary in July last, on an issue the result of which was, according to rumour, of such a character that we are considerably astonished at his re-appointment. Certainly common sense, and, if we mistake not, the Colonial Regulations, clearly dictate that a subordinate officer occupying a superior's post merely as a *locum tenens* is bound to adhere to the wishes and policy of the superior, who is really the responsible person, and who is presumed to be acting in accordance with the wishes of the Secretary of State. We know of no service, whether Civil or Military, where obedience to orders is not recognized as the fundamental principle of discipline, but it would seem that Mr. MARSH's long experience in subordinate capacities in the Colonial Service at Mauritius has failed to imbue him with any respect for this principle. For nothing could have been more clearly laid down than was the Governor's desire that Mr. TONNOCHY should revert, on Mr. MARSH's arrival, to the post which he has occupied since July with credit to himself and with advantage to the Colony. This, however, as well as Mr. TONNOCHY's claims on account of seniority, qualifications, and the fact of his having been twice Administrator, have been coolly set aside by Mr. MARSH. Of course, Mr. MARSH may have been acting under instructions, but there is not the least reason to suppose that he was; the inference is all the other way. The Secretary of State, who has

approved Mr. TONNOCHY's occupation of the office since July last, is presumably free from the caprice, or temper, or obstinacy, or whatever it be, that has led

Mr. MARSH into this foolish act, and is little likely to change his mind suddenly on the subject. We have, in fact, the best reasons for inferring that Mr. MARSH's deliberate resistance to his Chief's wishes, and undeserved slight to Mr. TONNOCHY and the regular Colonial Service of the Colony, are entirely his own doing. The *China Mail* chuckles over the whole thing, as a "palpable condemnation of Sir JOHN HENNESSY and his policy," and for once the *China Mail* writes the truth, for that is exactly what it is, though happily the condemnation in question can neither hurt nor affect any one except the imprudent author of it. For ourselves, we do not see how Mr. MARSH can escape very grave censure for his infatuated conduct. Even if Sir JOHN HENNESSY's relations with the Colonial Office were as unfavorable as his enemy's desire, no such considerations could affect the judgment on the present case, which involves the maintenance of the position and authority of a Colonial Governor, justice to an old public officer, and obedience to the rules and customs of the Service. These principles were directly violated by Mr. MARSH almost as soon as he assumed the oath of faithful service had left his lips.

From all these considerations, we believe that this appointment will be regarded with unqualified disapproval by every unprejudiced person in the Colony. Such a blundering act of injustice, if not of contumacy, for his very first step bodes ill for Mr. MARSH's career, and stamps him with the seal of unfitness for high office. Everyone recalls General DONOVAN's wrath at finding, on his return from Siam in 1850, that his *locum tenens*, Colonel HALL, had appointed Lieutenant COX to be the Governor's Aide de Camp. Those who sympathised with the gallant General on that occasion cannot now consistently defend Mr. MARSH's action. The two cases are, in most respects similar, the only important difference being that in this one Mr. MARSH has no parallel for the General's plan of life.

Lastly, we cannot help expressing our regret, that so highly respected an officer as Dr. STEWART should have allowed himself to become a party to an arrangement which certainly reflects no credit on any one concerned in it.

It is not surprising, observes the *Graphic*, that the speech recently delivered by General SCHLESINGER has created much excitement in Germany. We have heard very little lately of the Panslavist movement, and politicians of an optimist tendency hoped that it had begun to die away. General SCOBELLEFF, however, who may be taken as the most authoritative representative of the Russian army, gave enthusiastic utterance to Panslavonic aspirations; and he expressed deep regret that he could not go to the aid of his fellow Slavs in Herzegovina. Those English Liberals who supported Mr. GRANDSTON in the anti-Turkish agitation will, of course, say that this does not concern Great Britain. Perhaps not; but it certainly concerns Germany. For Panslavism means, it must be remembered, the breaking-up not only of Turkey but of Austria. The Slavonic provinces of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy must, according to General SCOBELLEFF's party, form a portion of the Russia of the future; and a considerable section of the inhabitants of these provinces would not be disinclined to make the change. If the map of Europe were thus altered, Germany might, perhaps, hope to secure the German provinces of Austria, but at what a cost! An almost irresistible Power would dominate the whole of her eastern and southern frontiers, while on the west she would still be watched with jealousy by France. For the moment the orthodox view in England is that all this is a mere baseless fancy; but the Germans must surely be allowed to be the best judges of their own interests, and they see in Panslavism the most formidable danger by which their empire is threatened. This is, of course, the real secret of their growing friendship with Austria; and Lord BEACONFIELD, whether or not he was right in wishing to associate England with the Austro-German alliance, was undoubtedly right in his conception of that alliance as based on solid and abiding interests.

With regard to a scheme mentioned in our last issue for a new steamship company for the China trade, we (*L. & C. Express*) hear that the formation of such a company is contemplated by several merchants and others in the London, China, and Japan trade. It is proposed that it should be conducted on the mutual principle, the same as has been in force with such success in the Local Insurance Companies in China. A preliminary meeting of many influential persons interested was held on the 16th inst., at the offices of Messrs. E. and A. Deacon, Fenchurch-street. It was agreed at this meeting that a provisional association to carry out the objects in view should be formed.

We do not know how much evidence of outrages committed upon the Jews may be wanted by some leaders of public opinion whose scepticism has developed since the time of the Bulgarian outrages, but the quantity of information is increasing daily. Upwards of 340 men, women, and children—Jewish refugees from Russia—arrived in Liverpool at the end of last week; and the very fact of their appearance there was a proof that some very sufficient impulse must have been at work to drive them from their homes and their employments into a strange land. This infernal evidence was not, however, all that was forthcoming, for the direct statements of the exiles left no doubt as to the reality of the outrages—at any rate in the districts from which they had come. When asked whether any of them had seen murders committed no fewer than forty, who would up their hands and testified to facts of murder and of violence upon women, one man solemnly declaring that from a house-top he saw a number of naked women and girls flogged through the streets of Kieff, the soldiers calmly looking on. When such stories are told not merely by the sufferers, but by the all-known *Daily News*, there is surely evidence enough.—*Overland Mail*.

WE would call the attention of the authorities to the disgraceful state of the Robinson Road directly opposite the new bungalows above the Bonham Road water tanks. Making every allowance for the extensive repairs that are at present going on, the manner in which the road is blocked up is neither necessary nor desirable.

THE Chinese Constable who allowed his prisoner to escape from the Central Station on the 21st instant, as reported in our issue of the 22nd, was this morning brought up before Mr. Wodehouse charged with the offence, and was fined five dollars, or seven days' imprisonment. The escaped prisoner was re-arrested the same night by another Police Constable.

MR. HO KAI, the new Chinese barrister, was formally admitted to practice of the Supreme Court yesterday, on the application of the Hon. F. O'Malley, Attorney-General. The Chief Justice cordially welcomed the new addition to the Bar, referring in complimentary terms to the creditable manner in which Mr. HO KAI had passed his several examinations at home.

IT is with deep regret we notice the family affliction which will meet Mr. T. C. Hayler on his arrival in Europe. It has been our duty to differ greatly from the learned gentleman of late, but without wishing to be in any way obtrusive in this moment of overwhelming sorrow we cannot refrain from tendering Mrs. Hayler and himself our sincere sympathy in their heavy bereavement.

A CHAIR cooler, who was fined two dollars, or seven days' hard labour by Mr. Wodehouse this morning for creating a disturbance in a "brothel," on leaving the Court threatened the woman who charged him, saying, "When I come out of Court I will kill you." He was brought back to have another interview with the Magistrate, who gave him 14 days' additional for contempt of Court, and at the expiration of his sentence he has to find two sureties in \$10 to be of good behaviour for one month. In default to be committed.

FOURTEEN Lascars serving on board the steamer *Suez* in various capacities, were charged this morning by the captain of the ship, before Captain Thomsett, R.N., sitting as Marine Magistrate, with refusal of duty, having declared they would go to goal rather than go back to the ship. Captain Thomsett sentenced them to fourteen days' hard labour, at the order of the Captain, and directed them to be put on board the ship before she left. Two of them, having expressed their willingness to return to duty, were sent on board. They all deserted from the vessel at San Francisco, and made some indefinite complaint to Captain Thomsett of ill-treatment on board, which the magistrate considered there was no ground for.

IN the course of a few childish comments on the sentence passed yesterday by Mr. Justice Snowden on Cheung Fung, a lad fourteen years old, who was sentenced to one year's imprisonment with hard labour, and to receive twelve strokes with the rattan for pocket-picking, last night's *China Mail* says:—"As we have all along maintained, contrary to the utterances of Governor HENNESSY, the punishment of flogging has not been removed from our local statute-book except in regard to enactments which had practically become inoperative, or had never come into force; such, for instance, as mendicancy, refusal to aid at fires, being out without a pass, &c." Will the *China Mail* in proof of its assertion be good enough to quote Governor HENNESSY's utterances referred to! Either the *China Mail* is the apostle of truth or it is—we leave our readers to fill in the gap.

THE boat which we mentioned in our report in yesterday's issue of the attack by pirates in the harbour on Tuesday night as having been picked up near the Godown Company's Pier at Wan Chai yesterday morning, was lying this forenoon at No. 2 Police Station in that district, no person having come forward as yet to claim it. It is a very old, heavy pullaway boat, with the number 1 once bare effectively faded, the marks being plainly visible. There is little doubt of its being the craft in which the scoundrels stole upon their unconscious and unsuspecting prey, and which they abandoned when they jumped on board their quarry, the current which was running in the direction where the boat was found, having, doubtless, carried it there. The dredger was picked up opposite Messrs. Fenwick, Morrison & Co.'s, and had but one ear in it when discovered. The other boat, when attacked was lying nearly opposite Mr. Mallory's timber yard, a short distance eastward of No. 2 Police station, and occupied a position some two or three hundred yards out in the harbour. The pirates, recognizing, doubtless, the difficulty, if not impossibility, of stopping a Chinese boatwoman's tongue in such circumstances, effectively secured the boatwoman's silence by stuffing a piece of cloth into her mouth, and tying her hands behind her back. Her unfortunate husband, suffering from the savage attack that had been made upon him, and from loss of blood from his wounds, would scarcely have been in a condition to raise much of an alarm, even if the threats of the pirates did not awe him into silence, and so the latter, it appears, did not deem it necessary to gag him. We cannot learn that the police have succeeded, so far in, arresting any of the rascals.

TELEGRAMS for Bangkok can go forward by mail closing at Singapore at 3 p.m. on 1st April.

H.M.S. *Albatross* docked this morning at San-shui-po, the M. M. Company's steamer *Saturation* taking her place in dock.

CAPTAIN THOMSETT, R.N., Harbour Master, took his seat on the bench this morning as Acting Police Magistrate *pro*

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH.

her true powers are naturally limited; but we are constrained to believe that signor Bertolini is capable of much better work than has yet fallen to her lot during the present season. In characters of the type of *Anetta* in "Crescine e la Comare" we should think she would achieve a decided success. In the minor parts signor Bennetti and Paterno rendered good service, but the chorus was again conspicuously weak. We must not omit to give a word of praise for the admirable manner in which the opera was "dressed," the whole of the characters showing well in this respect. Signor Cattaneo again distinguished himself as conductor and accompanist, in fact a very large share of the company's success is due to the *maestro's* care and ability.

One would imagine that we could not have enough of signora Silini's beautiful voice. Yet we must confess that it was at times rather out of time and tune during the performance of "La Traviata." The talented contralto was acting last night as prompter, and it is no exaggeration to say that her voice was more prominent than that of any individual performer in the opera. We know the difficulties which the occupant of the prompter's box has to face in conducting (that is the correct term when applied to Italian opera in Hongkong) a performance like "La Traviata," and therefore only throw out a kindly meant hint that a lower tone of voice might with advantage be used in giving the cues. It is really disagreeable for the audience to have some of the most romantic illusions in the plot dispelled, and the prettiest musical numbers muddled by discordant interruptions from the prompter's box.

The performance of "La Traviata" was very well received by the large audience, the whole of the *artistes* engaged being loudly applauded, and frequently called before the curtain. As will be seen by an announcement in another column, the first performance of the second series of subscription Operas will be given on the evening of Saturday next, when Donizetti's grand opera "Luzecia Borgia" will be produced, with signora Luticci in the title role.

POLICE COURT.—THIS DAY.

STEALING A REGISTERED LETTER.

The remanded case, in which Arthur Chapman, a gunner in the Royal Artillery, is charged with stealing a registered letter containing three £10 notes from the complainant, Henry Chapman, a gunner in the same corps, in December last, came on again to-day before Captain Thomas R.N., sitting as Acting Police Magistrate. The complainant deposed that, on the 15th November last, he received a letter from his sister residing at 178, Alexander Road, St. John's Wood, London, stating he was to expect £30 in the beginning of December, which letter he had destroyed. He waited for the expected letter until the beginning of this month, and suspecting it had miscarried, made inquiries at the Post Office, where he was informed by a clerk that a registered letter had arrived and been delivered to him (the witness). He asked to see the receipt for the letter, and saw on the signature of "H. Chapman." He reported the matter to the sergeant-major, who confined the prisoner, and he also wrote to the Postmaster General, the letter preferred a claim for the £30, on the ground that the non-delivery of the registered letter to him was owing to the neglect of the Post Office authorities. Mr. Barrif replied, stating his application had been referred to the Government for decision, and that it would be necessary for him to prove that the registered letter contained a remittance. He asked the prisoner for a certificate of the contents of the letter, which certificate he produced, and which stated that the latter addressed to Gunner Henry Chapman, R.A., and signed for in mistake by him (the prisoner), contained three £10 notes of the Bank of England. He, also, went to sergeant Fillingham of the Royal Artillery, who told him he had seen the contents of the letter, and gave him a certificate (produced) stating that the registered letter contained three £10 notes of the Bank of England, and that the prisoner placed them in his (sergeant Fillingham's) keeping after receipt of the letter. Witness also produced a copy of another letter he addressed to the Postmaster General on the 13th instant, to which he had received no reply. (The letter enclosed copies of the certificates given by the prisoner and by sergeant Fillingham, and stated that additional evidence could be produced if necessary.) Sergeant Fillingham deposed that prisoner came to him on the 4th Dec. last and told him he had received a remittance from his Aunt Mary, who was living at St. John's Wood, showed him the three £10 notes, and asked him to take care of them, as he had no lock on his box. Witness took charge of the notes, which, he was sure, were £10 notes of the Bank of England. Prisoner asked him to cash one note. Witness went to sergeant-major Laurie, who gave him £50 for one of the notes. He gave the prisoner £25, and locked the remaining £25 with the other two notes in his box. Next day prisoner asked him for the other two £10 notes, as he was going to the Hongkong Bank, he said, to cash them. He gave him the notes, and prisoner brought him back, he thought, about £160. He put the money in his box, the whole of which he returned to the prisoner at different times. Sergeant-major Laurie has the other £10 note still in his possession. The note produced is the one prisoner gave him, and which he (the witness) handed over to sergeant-major Laurie, receiving in exchange £50. In answer to prisoner, witness said he must have made a mistake as to the sum brought him from the Bank by the prisoner, and that it must have been about \$105, as two £10 notes would not produce so much in dollars. Sergeant-major Laurie gave evidence as to his giving £50 for the £10 note to sergeant-major Laurie, and said that Gunner Chapman having made a report to him as to the signature to the Post Office receipt, he arrested the prisoner, whose handwriting to the signature to the receipt he identified. The case was remanded till Saturday for evidence to be obtained from the Hongkong Bank as to the two £10 notes said to have been cashed there.

CHARGE AGAINST SOLDIERS.

Two Gun Lascars, quartered at McGregor's Barracks, were charged this morning, before Mr. Wodehouse, with entering the house of Mr. Goulbourn, a clerk in the Surveyor-General's Department, residing at No. 225, Queen's Road East, on the 29th instant, and behaving improperly to Mrs. Goulbourn. Mr. Goulbourn said that about 9.30 p.m. on the 29th he was in his sitting-room with a friend. Mrs. Goulbourn was standing at the window, and came to the conclusion it was the defendants addressing his wife, because on other occasions they had been to his house and behaved in the same way. He told Mrs. Goulbourn to remain quiet and say nothing, and then he heard the front door of his house opened and heard steps passing along the

passage in the direction of the room where Mrs. Goulbourn and he were. He and his friend left Mrs. Goulbourn, and went into the dining-room. He placed himself where he could see into the room where Mrs. Goulbourn was. The two defendants went in and stood alongside the table. He saw one of them take some money out of his pocket, and in a rather diffident manner hand it backwords and forwards to Mrs. Goulbourn. The other patted the man on the back, though he was telling him not to be frightened. The first one then handed the money, a bank note, to Mrs. Goulbourn, and at the same time he saw the prisoners make signs with their fingers to the effect that they would pay 30 cents, and that Mrs. Goulbourn was to give them back four dollars and 70 cents, and they said in Chinese "Pay back four dollars and 70 cents." Mrs. Goulbourn took the note in her hand, and left the sitting room, handing him (the witness) the note, which he produced, as she passed. He went out and confronted the two defendants, and asked them what they wanted. They immediately raised a hue and cry of "Five dollars, Five dollars." He ejected them from the house, and followed them with his friend until he met a policeman, when he gave them in charge. He said the Gun Lascars were a regular nuisance to the people living in the neighbourhood. He spoke of the ones who wear turbans, who are in the habit of making indecent gestures to women in the streets, and that they had done so more than once to Mrs. Goulbourn, and that their behaviour was almost indecent. Mr. Goulbourn's friend corroborated his testimony as to the indecent conduct of the turbanned Gun Lascars living at McGregor's barracks, and said it was not safe for any respectable woman to be about in that part of the town for fear of being subjected to gross insult. The case was remanded till Saturday on the order that an officer might be asked to attend.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

A correspondent writes from Canton to the "Shanghai Mercury" on the 14th inst., as follows:—There is so much news in the China and Japan Press, about preparations for war, and rumours of war can like a red thread through the newspapers of both countries, that I have made it my special business and study to find out all about it; at least in this part of China, and the following information is the result of my careful researches and investigations. In the first place it is all bush and nonsense to say that the strained relations between this country and Japan were due to that trifling Loochoo question, or to the Korean insignificant complication; the true cause of the present real or fancied preparations for war is something quite different, according to private information received direct from Paris. It appears that the Empress Regent of China had made up Her Imperial mind to come to Shanghai for a holiday, about Chinese New Year, with the intention of assisting at the annual ball given by the Marine Engineers' Institute at the Temperance Hall; and she had ordered a magnificent modern ball costume from the world-wide known fashionable Paris establishment, "Au Bon Marché," but somehow or other the Japanese Minister to the Republic of France had an opportunity to see the splendid Imperial dress, and he succeeded in bribing the wily French milliner to ship it by the M. M. packet from Marseilles to Yokohama instead of sending it to Peking via Shanghai; by this clever intrigue the Japanese diplomat secured the superb Imperial dress in question for his own august Lady in Tokyo, and the disappointed Chinese Imperial Lady in Peking was thus compelled to return her ticket to the Engineers' Ball Committee, with an expression of regret, and stating that just then she unfortunately was suffering from a severe headache and could not come; but it is generally supposed that she attended, exceedingly well dressed, as a swish peasant girl, the Calico Ball given by the Great G.C.; however, she could not get over the unfriendly trick played her by the enterprising Japanese Minister, and it is certain that sooner or later she will have her revenge; this melancholy affair is now at the bottom of all the trouble between the two countries. Of course this is not the first time that petticoats are causing mischief, as we all are well aware; for instance, if Ostenbach had not written his Opera "La Belle Helene," Troy would never have been destroyed. At present not much animosity against the Japanese is apparent amongst the Celestials of Canton, but it is proposed as a matter of precaution, by some well intentioned people of this port, to establish a branch of the Shanghai Ice Company here, to keep the temper of the natives cool, if required, during the excitement of the expected war. A display of the paraphernalia of maritime warfare was made on the 13th and 14th instant, when H.E. the Vice-roy inspected the fortifications of the Bocca Tigris and of the Macao Fort, etc., in Canton River. Most of the ancient fortifications are decayed and neglected, now and more efficient ones in their vicinity have been built; these latter are armed with very formidable modern guns, and whenever their times comes to burst, there is no doubt they will do some dreadful execution amongst their own artillerymen. On this tour of inspection His Excellency was accompanied by quite a fleet of gunboats; unfortunately it appears that the skill of the Native admirals to handle their fleet does not increase at the same ratio as the number of their vessels, and it frequently happens that they huddle together more like a flock of sheep than like a fleet of war vessels, and then it is dangerous or impossible for any mortal to attempt to pass by them; therefore the Japanese must give up the idea to steam past the Viceroyal fleet, if they want to take Canton, they will have to knock them down. To remedy the present *inconveniences* (presumably it would be considered unparliamentary to write *inconveniences*) of the Cantonese Lord High Admiral, a Naval College has been built in Whampoa, which is nearly approaching completion. The building is a respectable looking brick building, comprising a ground floor, and one storey, surrounded by a handsome wall, with a courtyard toward the river frontage; the building is of a rectangular shape and comprises three inner courtyards, which latter contain several basins of masonry, which shrubs, flowers, and even several trees are planted; several others of these basins are intended to be used as a kind of aquarium, I am told. The lower storey, or ground floor, of this extensive building complex, contains spacious halls, evidently intended for class rooms, or lecturing halls, and they are furnished with foreign fire-irons and mantelpieces, which only await the arrival of some coal from the Kaiping mines, and then the fires can be lit. The woodwork consists of China pine, and only the stair-cases are of hardwood, Teak or Malawa, I don't know which. The several wings of the building are connected by passages across the courtyards, partly covered in glass roofs. The wood work is partly painted (grained) and partly done with Ningpo varnish, and altogether the whole edifice makes a favourable and pleasing impression. The building is supposed to furnish accommodation for over sixty future Chinese Nelsons, and as soon as they shall be hatched properly, then, dear Mr. Editor, the much talked of great war against Japan will at once be declared—hurrah!—Tremont, Tremont—Tokio! Another useful preparation for the impending war are the efficient steps taken by the native authorities with regard to the Whampoa Docks. These splendid works were taken over a few years ago, from the foreign Dock Company, in strict ratio order and work-

ing condition; but to prevent the Japs on some future occasion to get their vessels of war repaired at Whampoa, those docks are permitted to gradually drop into such a dilapidated state, that it soon will be hardly possible to recognise the sites where some of them have formerly existed and flourished; only the two granite docks it has not been possible yet for the wear and tear of time to destroy; but the tide floats in and out through the completely rotten *caissons* of at least one of them, as if no such obstacle at all did exist. The so called "Mad Docks" are now somewhat well silted up, and are only useful to supply the market of Hongkong with frogs, for the species of that opulent Colony; and in the summer-time they also serve the purpose of a plentiful propagation of the present blood-thirsty species of Whampoa mosquitoes, which is right, at least I don't see why our successors should be any better off in that respect than our good selves, their worshipful ancestors and predecessors. At present I contemplate purchasing some war paint, ready mixed, to put on a moment's notice, and I am practising already a modern war dance, and a genuine savage war whoop, for the impending struggle. If any more stirring war news are to report from this part of the globe, I shall let you know per telegraph from Hongkong.

What is the price for first rate tomahawk at your port? Please purchase a good shooting iron of the revolving kind for me, and a sharp Japanese *barikiri* razors. I'm getting ready for action—*parabellum*! I have seen some hellish signs amongst the stars last night—there was some smart shooting going on amongst them, which is very ominous indeed! I had a remarkably bad dream afterwards. These significant phenomena were preceded by a heavy earthquake, or by a heavy dinner or some such concern—I forgot which. There are really some strange rumours and whisperings afloat—*c'est la guerre*—by Jingo!

RUSSIA AND CENTRAL ASIA.

Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett recently asked the Under-Secretary of State for India whether it was true that a treaty had been lately concluded between Russia and the Shah whereby Persia had agreed to the annexation by Russia of the whole Valley of the Atrek up to the important position of Sarakhs; whether theMagistrate, Peng, issued a notification regarding the stoppage of the use of spurious cash in Foochow; if not you can refer to the files of the 13th January, 1881, for information. This had some effect at the time the above Magistrate was in office, and as soon as he gave up the position he then held the use of the spurious cash again; his revival, consequently the two new Magistrates Muu and Yie felt it their duty to issue another notification which is made out in a business-like form, and for the information of your readers, I may as well give you a translation of said notification which runs as follows:—

"The Min and How-Kwan Magistrates, Muu and Yie, jointly issue this notification for the purpose of preventing the opening of shops for the issue of paper notes of small value, as well as those which keep cash signs, by which they are known as money-changers."

"Sir C. Dilke—I reply to the first portion of the hon. member's question, I beg to refer him to the answer already given by me to my hon. friend the member for Greenwich. The information which we have received as to the number of Russian troops at Askabab will be found in the Parliamentary Paper just distributed—Central Asia, No. 4, p. 24—in an extract from the *St. Petersburg Gazette* of September 15th, sent home by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburg. "We have not heard of any change in the disposition or number of the troops since that date. I have no information to give in regard to the reported intrigues of Russian agents along the borders of Afghanistan. The spell of the Russian standard is far away to the East, even to the conquered regions; and this will be confirmed by the engineers who have just returned from Sarakhs."

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